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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Nanna Kristensen Soni, Janne Uldal Rahbek,

Stig Aasmul-Olsen and Lise Lund

Serial No.: 09/925,635 Art Unit:

1645

Confirmation No.: 2913

Filed: August 9, 2001

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

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Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

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In order to comply with the duty to disclose information under 37

C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants submit herewith an Information Disclosure Statement in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. In particular, Applicants submit herewith a Form PTO-1449 listing references for consideration by the Examiner. A

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copy of each reference listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 is also submitted for the Examiner's convenience.

It is believed that no fee is required for these submissions as this Information Disclosure Statement is timely submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3) and before any mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. However, should the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determine that any fee is required or that any required is due for this application, the Commissioner is authorized and requested to change any required fee(s) and/or credit any refund(s) due to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

REMARKS

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(3)(i) and M.P.E.P. § 609.III.A(3), a concise explanation of relevance for non-English language European Patent publication no. EP 0 445 710 A1¹ is attached to the accompanying copy of that reference. It is further noted, however, the U.S. Patent No. 5,232,690² is the United States equivalent of that European Patent application. In particular, both these patent documents claim priority to German patent application no. DE 4007315.

¹ This foreign patent publication is cited as Reference No. 2 in the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

² This patent is cited as Reference No. 1 in the accompanying Form PTO-1449.

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Applicants respectfully request that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration by the Examiner and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search or that any search has been made. It is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited

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on the attached form even if not initialed. Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 26, 2001

Samuel S. Woodley, Ph.D. (Registration No. 43,287 Agent for Applicant(s)

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